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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/807,654	04/13/2001	Shusaku Okamoto	5077-000031	2201

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EXAMINER

VO, TUNG T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2613

DATE MAILED: 12/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/807,654

Applicant(s)

OKAMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

Tung T. Vo

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 September 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 and 26-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24, 26-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-11, 16-24, 28-29 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Schofield et al. (US 6,498,620 B2) as set forth in the previous Office Action dated 06/22/2004 and the discussion follows.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 10-15, 24, and 26-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schofield et al. (US 6,498,620 B2) in view of Shimizu (US 5,796,991) as set forth in the previous Office Action dated 06/22/2004 and the discussion follows.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 09/16/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant argued that Schofield does not disclose nor suggest that claims features as follow “changing a position or so of the virtual point of view in accordance with a running state of the vehicle”, claims 1 and 9; “controlling capturing of an image outside a view range of the virtual point of view in accordance with a running state of the vehicle”, claim 8; “generating an image including a first image viewed from the virtual point of view and a second image viewed from a different viewpoint and different model”, claims 10 and 16; “displaying a vehicle region and an attention drawing region at surroundings of the vehicle”, claims 17 and 23; “the pixel data other than the camera images show the vehicle or a blind spot”, claim 24; “cutting out a mapping table from an original mapping table”, claim 29; and there is not suggestion of mapping data describing a rate of necessity with respect to each of the pixel data, pages 11-14 of the remarks.

The examiner respectfully disagrees with that applicant. It is submitted that Schofield further discloses the image processing part (18 of fig. 22) changes *at least one selected from* a position (col. 21, lines 25-41; e.g. the image processing changes a position in accordance with a running state of the vehicle), a direction of a line of sight (col. 21, line 67-col. 22, line 6; e.g. changing a field of view from rearward to forward of, or to the side of, the vehicle; see also col. 14, lines 1-29), and a focal length of the virtual point of view in accordance with a running state of the vehicle (cameras 14 and 16 of fig. 24, e.g. the cameras 14 and 16 inherently have a focal length, so when the vehicle changes from one location to other location the focal length of the cameras also change); controlling capturing of an image outside a view range (cameras 14 and

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16 of fig. 4, e.g. the cameras 14 and 16 captures the images outside a view range of the driver when the vehicle moving forward direction as consider running state, and the captured images can be displayed on the display (20" of fig. 10)) of the virtual point of view in accordance with a running state of the vehicle; the image processor (18 of fig. 5) can generate an image including a first image viewed from the virtual point of view (14 Left of fig. 5) and a second image viewed from a different viewpoint and a different model (14 Right of fig. 5; see also 14A, 19 of fig.; e.g. the camera 14A Left captures the fist image at different angle from the camera 14A Right that captures the second image, the cameras 14A Right and Left are have different viewpoint from each other); displaying a vehicle region and an attention drawing region at surroundings of the vehicle (fig. 6, e.g. displaying the markers of the road and other vehicles surrounding of the vehicle); the pixel data other than the camera images show the vehicle or a blind spot (col. 20, lines 41-62); cutting out a mapping table from an original mapping table (e.g. note that the output of image capture device 14, 16 and display 20 which synchronously maps image pixels captured by the image capture device, or devices, to the display. This synchronous mapping may be accomplished by providing a one-to-one mapping in which each pixel measurement is communicated to the display, this describe the relationship between the pixels of the synthetic image and the camera image, therefore this technique is called cuts out a mapping table, this also so the rate of necessity with respect to each of the pixel data, in Schofield Col. 14, lines 30-67). In view of the discussion above, the Schofield clearly anticipates the claimed features.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tung T. Vo whose telephone number is (703) 308-5874. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 AM - 3:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris. Kelley can be reached on (703) 305-4856. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



TUNG T. VO
PATENT EXAMINER

Tung T. Vo
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2613

T.Vo.